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I.

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SOME REMARKS ON WEANING.

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THE circumstances to be regarded in weaning a child are, the age, number of teeth, season of year, and state of health.

1. The child should be at least one year of age at the time of weaning, and if it can be continued at the breast until fifteen months old, it is generally better that it should be. Children under this age are better able to resist disease who are continued at the breast, than those who are weaned at an earlier age. The mother's milk gives to the child a vigor of constitution which is quite remarkable, when contrasted with the condition of those children who have been brought up by hand. Every one who has seen anything of children, knows how subject the latter are to diseases of all kinds, more particularly of the bowels, especially during the summer months. Occasionally we meet with a child who seems to be an exception to the above remark; one who is plump and thriving, although it may never have been nourished by its natural food. But it has been remarked even of these children, that when attacked with

acute disease, they possess less of the power of recovery than those brought up at the breast; such children may pass through the active periods of disease as well as other children, but their recovery is more tedious. Children who are weaned at one year generally do well, other things being favorable; still it is better, when practicable, that the child should be continued at the breast until he is fifteen months old. It is objected to long-continued nursing, that it is a great trial to the mother's constitution, and may prove a permanent injury to the health. This undoubtedly may be true in some cases. There are circumstances relating to the mother which may render it expedient to wean her child long before it has completed its first year. But a majority of mothers, by prudent management, may continue to nurse their children until they are fifteen months old, and some even until they are eighteen months, both with safety to the former, and benefit to the latter. But to do this requires prudent management. The child, after it begins to have teeth, should not depend upon the mother alone for sustenance; neither should the mother allow her child, at any age, to hang upon the breast through the whole night;—a custom, I apprehend, too common, and which cannot be too

strongly deprecated, as often leading to disastrous consequences. Breast milk, if only taken two or three times in a day, preserves the tone of the stomach and bowels, and enables even a very young child to take other food with impunity; and this is all that is required, when it is recommended for children to nurse after they have completed their first year.

2. A circumstance of more importance than the age, is the number of teeth. The greater the number of teeth at the time of weaning, the greater is the security. The child should have at least four teeth; and if it has cut all the incisors, it will be still better. There are few children who do not have four teeth by the time they have completed the first year. Many cut all the incisors by this age. Hence one year is safely adopted by most parents as the proper age for nursing their children. Still this circumstance of age ought not solely to be relied on. A child of ten months, who has cut all his incisors, is better prepared for weaning than one of a year old, who has only four teeth, although the latter can generally be nursed with safety. The reason for this must be obvious. The child who is well supplied with teeth, is not only prepared to act upon solid food, but the appearance of the teeth is an indication that the digestive organs have arrived at that degree of maturity when they are prepared to receive other food than the mother's. Another consideration should also be borne in mind. Those children pass through the trying period of dentition with the greatest ease, who have been nourished at the

breast. Now if they can be continued at the breast until they have cut a considerable number of teeth, they not only will have cut these teeth with greater ease, but the constitution, more particularly the digestive apparatus, will have become fortified, and the child be better prepared to cut the remaining teeth. The number of teeth is in general in proportion to the age of the child: hence the latter, other circumstances being favorable, is, in a majority of cases, a safe criterion for determining the time of weaning; but as the number of teeth indicates the degree of maturity to which the digestive organs have arrived, it is this circumstance more than the number of months the child may have lived, which is to be particularly regarded.

3. In connection with the age of the child and the number of teeth, the season of the year is to be considered. Cold weather is always preferable to warm for weaning. A child who is a year old, in January, if it has a sufficient number of teeth, can be weaned with greater safety than the same child could in the following July, when he would be eighteen months of age. An objection to weaning during the cold weather, is the length of the nights. This is, however, at most, an inconvenience; and when compared with the danger of weaning during the summer months, is not entitled to consideration. Under this head, no better rules can be laid down than those adopted by Dr. Jackson, of this city, which I here give.—“The safest period of the year for weaning, is from the middle of October to the middle

of March, provided they be not weaned under ten months after December, under eleven after January, nor under twelve after February. Children who are weaned at the age of twelve months, in March, are ordinarily safe; those who are weaned at this age, in April, are less so,—one half of them perhaps suffering severely in the subsequent summer or autumn. In May, the danger increases; and in the four subsequent months, if a child of any age be weaned, it will in most cases be sick before the middle of the October ensuing. The disease does not immediately follow the weaning; though in many cases the diarrhœa of teething children ensues at once. But the instances in which children who are weaned between May and October escape cholera infantum, are extremely rare indeed.* These rules, it should be observed, apply more particularly to the city. I am informed that in the country children are often weaned as late as the month of June, this month being preferred as safe and convenient on account of the shortness of the nights. How far this custom is correct, I am unable to say.

4. The fourth circumstance to be regarded, is the health of the child. No child should be weaned whilst laboring under acute disease. It must be obvious, after all that has been said, that a measure which at all times requires caution in its adoption, must be particularly objectionable at a time when the system is struggling against other difficulties. It should be remembered, also, that the child must be chief-

ly dependent upon the breast for the recovery of its strength, after having passed through the acute stages of the disease. During sickness, it is well to encourage a child to take aqueous or thin farinaceous drinks, allowing it to nurse only occasionally. Should it, however, refuse to nurse, care must be taken to retain the milk, by having the breasts frequently drawn; and the child should be restored as soon as there is a return of appetite, and be allowed no other food. It sometimes happens, in very young children, that the breast milk is the only food it will take; when this is the case, the food of the mother should be of the mildest kind. There are cases in which the mother's milk disagrees, and may be the cause of producing or maintaining a disordered state of the bowels; and this leads to the consideration of the causes which may render premature weaning expedient.

By *premature weaning*, is meant weaning at a time when it would be thought injudicious, in consideration of any of the circumstances above noticed. The universal rule, in deciding this point, is the following:—If it is evident that the milk disagrees with the child, or if there are good grounds for apprehending that continued nursing will be productive of permanent injury to the constitution of the mother, in either of these cases, there can be no question as to the expediency of weaning. This rule may be adopted as of universal application, admitting of no exception. The evidences of the milk disagreeing with the child are, a disordered state of the alimentary canal, wasting of the body, fretfulness, &c. But as this condition of the bowels

* N. E. Journal, Vol. I. No. 1.

may arise from other causes, whenever there is any suspicion of the milk, the point should be determined by a change of the nurse, or food; care being taken, in the mean time, to retain the mother's milk until the question is satisfactorily decided.

As regards the mother, an indisposition which is likely to be temporary, or even an attack of acute disease, is not always a sufficient cause for weaning. In these latter cases, great fears are often apprehended that the child will take the disease from the mother. These fears are, for the most part, unfounded, as women have been known to nurse their children, with impunity, whilst laboring under the most malignant forms of fever.* In our common autumnal fevers, I have had repeated opportunities of verifying this remark. I have had patients suffering from this disease, who have for a long time continued to nurse their children; and when it has become necessary to wean, it has either been on account of the failure of the milk, or on account of the fatigue and exhaustion which nursing occasioned the mother, and not on account of any injury sustained by the child. It is often a question of some delicacy, to decide between the danger of recovery to the child, on the one hand, and the dangers of fatigue and exhaustion from continued nursing to the mother, on the other. No general rules can be laid down for determining this point, but each case must be decided by an attentive observation of the circumstances belonging to it; remembering that the decision

should be in favor of the mother, who should be allowed to incur no hazards for what, in severe cases, is generally the doubtful chance of being able to retain the milk.

Another question akin to the one just considered, relates to the propriety of a woman continuing to nurse after she knows herself to be pregnant. The popular opinion is that she should not. And yet it is certain that some women do continue to give suck, long after they know themselves to be in that condition, without injury to themselves or their children. This question, I apprehend, is to be decided by a reference to the circumstances above detailed, and the rule which has been laid down for premature weaning. Should these circumstances be favorable, the existence of pregnancy would certainly be an additional reason for weaning. Should they be unfavorable, and should the milk agree with the child, and the mother derive no serious inconveniences from continued nursing, then there would appear to be no reason why the child should not be continued at the breast until more favorable circumstances for weaning occurred.

In the remarks which have been made, I have proceeded upon the supposition, that when it becomes necessary to deprive a child of its mother's milk, the only alternative is weaning. This is indeed often the case: for it not unfrequently happens that it is impossible to obtain a nurse with whom a cautious mother is willing to trust her child. It becomes, then, a question of no small importance, what substitute can be found for the human milk.

* Dewees.

The milk of various animals has been recommended, and are the articles which are generally used for this purpose. An examination of the constituents of the different kinds of milk may aid us in deciding this question.

Woman's milk contains but little curd, which is with difficulty separated: it yields a large quantity of cream, and is very sweet. When deprived of its cream, it is very thin, and has more the appearance of whey than of creamed milk. The curd is said to increase in proportion to the time from delivery.

"Cow's milk differs from woman's in being more consistent, and in containing a much larger quantity of curd, which is seemingly gelatinous; it has less cream and less sugar."

Ass's milk very strongly resembles woman's. It differs from the cow's, and consequently from woman's, in having less cream, which is very insipid; it contains more curd and less cream than the cow's.

Goat's milk resembles the cow's, but is more consistent, and contains a larger quantity of curd. Ewe's milk resembles almost precisely that of the cow.

Mare's milk is thinner than the cow's, but less so than woman's. Curd less abundant than in the cow. (See Thompson's Chemistry by Cooper, and Nicholson's Fourcroy, article Milk.)

From the above comparisons of the constituents of different milks, it will appear that the differences of consistency depend upon the different quantities of curd which they contain. There can be no doubt that the different milks are more or less digestible as they contain a less or greater

quantity of this constituent. We are thus able to account for the fact, that cow's milk so seldom agrees with children. The number of infants who can bear this article for constant food, however much it may be diluted, is exceedingly small. It has too much of the nature of solid food, owing to the large quantity of curd it contains. Ass's milk has been recommended for children, when human milk cannot be obtained. I have never had an opportunity of trying it, but from its great resemblance to woman's milk, it is probable that it would answer this purpose very well. But it contains less cream, is less nutritious, and is less palatable, than the child's natural food. Mare's milk stands next to ass's in its resemblance to human milk. It has also been recommended for children.

The article which I have used with the most success as a substitute for human milk, is cream. It is much preferable to clear milk, and can be taken when the latter cannot be borne. I have used it in the proportions of one third cream to two thirds water, with sugar enough to make it as sweet as human milk. I seldom recommend a larger proportion of cream than that I have mentioned; but I have known it to be given in much larger proportions. In one case, the mother assured me that she gave her child habitually not less than two thirds cream. This the child would take with a good relish: it was well digested; whilst milk uniformly disagreed with the child's bowels. I have had opportunities of making the same observation in other cases, where the article has been used in smaller propor-

tions. The case to which I have just alluded was so remarkable in demonstrating the different effects of milk, that some of the facts connected with it, so far as they seem to illustrate the present subject, I will here give.— This was a child who, at the age of six months, in the month of August, it became necessary to wean, on account of the sickness of its mother. Soon afterwards it was attacked with diarrhoea, which became very profuse. Medicine was administered, and, as usual in cases of this sort, whilst the cause continues to exist, with no effect. His diet had thus far been chiefly milk and water: this was changed for cream and water, in the proportions which I have just mentioned. His medicine was a grain each of calomel and rhubarb, taken night and morning. In a few days there was an evident improvement in the child's discharges, and by the end of a week they became natural; his flesh began to return, and in all respects he so much improved, that I discontinued my visits. In a few weeks I was again called to the same child, who was suffering in the same way, and nearly as much as before. On inquiry, I found that the mother, trusting too much to the child's improved condition, had neglected to obtain cream for him, and had been feeding him on milk again. I immediately put him upon the same treatment that I had before adopted, and with equally as good effects. After the last attack, I repeatedly called to inquire after the child's health; and the mother again and again told me that if, from any cause, the milk was given for a day, or even for half

a day, a very perceptible change would be produced in the discharges. This child thrived remarkably well on this diet: at the age of ten months he was a strong healthful child, had cut ten teeth, and almost went alone.

There is an effect which follows the use of cream which it is necessary to notice; and that is, that it renders the bowels costive. This, I take it, does not depend upon any sedative power in the cream, which restrains the peristaltic action; but the cream being easily digested, nearly the whole is converted into chyme, and but little excrementitious matter is left to sustain the action of the bowels. I have also observed that when the cream is much diluted, the urine is profuse, and occasionally there is a rejection from the stomach of a liquid, which has appeared to be clear water. From these facts, I have inferred that the cream is separated from the water soon after it gets into the stomach, and the water is either rapidly absorbed and carried off by the kidneys, or, should an unusual quantity accumulate on the stomach, it is relieved by its own efforts.

It has occurred to me that a very good substitute for human milk might be prepared by separating the curd from cow's milk. This may be prepared by separating the milk into its constituent parts, and then mixing the cream and whey in any proportion which may be thought best: or it may be obtained without separating the cream, by adding rennet to new milk when much heated; then "breaking down the curd, and forcibly separating the whey." It is said that "from whey thus

procured, butter can be obtained in considerable quantities; a full proof that nearly the whole of the creamy part of the milk has been separated with the whey.* I am unable to say which of these modes of making this preparation is preferable. If prepared according to the former method, the proportions of the constituents may be as large as we please: if according to the latter, the constituents will be more intimately blended; a consideration of some importance; for I apprehend it is owing to the intimate union of the component parts, that new milk is more easily digested than that which has been allowed to stand until a separation has taken place. Made in either way, it appears to me that it will be preferable to a mixture of cream and water, and might be given in those cases in which the latter would be objectionable, on account of the costiveness which attends its use. In its sensible qualities, with the addition of some sugar, it would very much resemble woman's milk. It will contain a portion of the curd, probably nearly as much as is to be found in human milk; for it is im-

possible, with rennet alone, to separate all the curd from the whey. Now this appears to me to be desirable; for although the cow's milk, in its pure state, contains too much curd for the feeble powers of the infant stomach, yet the very circumstance that a portion of this constituent is found in human milk, is a sufficient proof that it is designed for some good purpose. The presence of a small portion of curd, together with the salts* which whey is known to contain, would probably prevent the costiveness which sometimes renders cream objectionable, and perhaps answer other purposes with which we are unacquainted.

I have already said more upon this subject than I at first intended. The utility of this preparation must, after all, be determined by experience. I have had no opportunity of applying it, since it occurred to me, neither do I know that it has been before proposed; and it is now merely suggested for the consideration of others.

Boston, Jan., 1830.

* On evaporation of whey, muriate of potash and muriate of soda make their appearance.—*Thompson.*

* Thompson's Chemistry by Cooper.

BOSTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1830.

WE must apologise for the little *variety* found in our paper this week. It has been occasioned not by want of material, but of room. It is always desirable to avoid *continuing* an article from paper to paper, and many advantages result from giving at once a full view of any subject which is

deemed important. In the next volume, which will begin in a few weeks, we shall adopt a plan by which this object may be accomplished without depriving the reader of a variety of subjects for his consideration. This, and one or two other contemplated improvements, as we

esteem them, will be more fully explained in the 1st No. of the Volume. as resort to them under the circumstances alluded to.

ST. AUGUSTINE,—AS A RESORT FOR CONSUMPTIVE PERSONS.

WE have received a circular letter from Dr. Andrew Anderson, dated at St. Augustine, March, 1829, in which he recommends that city as a favorable residence for consumptive patients. There is no physician in this part of the country, but has occasion, every season, to advise a greater or less number of his friends, laboring under or apprehensive of pulmonary disease, to spend the winter months in a milder climate; and there is no one who has not witnessed the benefits of such a course. It is still a question, in what part of the world is the atmosphere best suited to remove that morbid condition of the lungs which constitutes the predisposition to phthisis pulmonalis, and to arrest the progress of the disease when once established. It is still another question, whether the climate which would act most favorably in one stage of the malady, would also be best suited to all other stages; and whether the peculiar idiosyncrasy of individuals does not form another ground for the selection of different climates in different classes of patients. On these points, we leave each practitioner to decide for himself, according to his own observation and judgment. All must agree, however, that there are certain general traits of character in some climates, which seem to adapt them peculiarly well for accomplishing the general purposes proposed by such

In mild cases, at their commencement, we have found a very marked and rather unexpected degree of amendment from a winter passed at Richmond, in Virginia. Although the distance is not great, yet the air is so bland and pure, so destitute of the raw and chilling qualities of our sea winds, that the respiratory organs seem to act with great freedom, and irritation in them is very speedily and effectually removed. But the more distant and celebrated places of resort for such patients have been, the south of France, Italy, and the West India Islands. All these have doubtless the advantage of a soft atmosphere, and a temperature equable and mild. In these advantages, the Island of Madeira is said to exceed them all, the range of the thermometer being but about 12 deg. throughout the year. Here too may be enjoyed, with great facility, the new plan of dietetic treatment, which we noticed on page 317, under the head of *Cure des Raisins*, and which would doubtless aid in the restoration to health of a large number of those who fly their own country for milder and more balmy regions.

Until we received the circular letter from Dr. Andrew Anderson, we confess ourselves to have been ignorant of the peculiar advantages offered for such invalids by the city of St. Augustine, in the Territory of East Florida; and it is certainly a fact too important to a numerous class of valetudinarians, to be passed lightly over by the faculty, if we indeed have, in our own country, and

under our own laws, and among our own people, a spot so congenial to consumptive patients as this city is represented by Dr. A. His account is altogether clear, and bears the marks of having been drawn up with great impartiality. Some of the more prominent features of this description we shall extract from his letter.

"The city of St. Augustine," says he, "one of the oldest places on the Continent, is situated on the Atlantic coast, in about Lat. 35 deg. north. The soil around the place for miles is a mixture of shell and sand. The houses are generally built of shell, stone or wood, after the old Spanish mode, with orange groves in the rear; but owing to their age and peculiarity of construction, not offering it must be confessed, much attraction at first to the inhabitants of the States. A large hotel, however, is about to be erected, which is intended to remedy any objection on that score. There is now in the place a Catholic church, a Methodist meeting house, a Presbyterian church nearly completed, and measures are in train for the erection of an Episcopal church. The markets present a sufficient variety of meat and vegetables. Beef, though lean, of good flavor; poultry, wild and tame turkeys, and venison in abundance; and fish equal to any in the world, sheephead, bass, mullet, whiting, crabs, turtles and oysters,—all light, easy, yet nourishing food. Among the fruits are the orange, the lime, the fig, and a great variety of kitchen vegetables. The vine, olive and date would also flourish, and will no doubt be shortly introduced. That it is a place in some respects not presenting all the conveniences of a large and more busy city, is certainly not to be denied; that, however, is an evil that will soon cure itself. The water too, though drinkable, is

like that of most southern latitudes, rather hard. The price of board and lodging per week is from seven to ten dollars. All the above circumstances and facts are no doubt of some importance to most persons; yet to an invalid in search of health, there are other things of far greater interest; and it is here that St. Augustine stands undoubtedly unrivalled,—in air, in temperature, in physical peculiarities and advantages generally.

"The climate is as equal and as agreeable the year round as in the nature of things can be. The mean temperature by Fahrenheit, for January, in 1829, was as follows:—For January, 1829, at 7, A. M., 53 deg.; at 2, P. M., 60 deg.; at 9, P. M., 54 deg.: for February, at 7, A. M., 53 deg.; at 2, P. M., 60 deg.; at 9, P. M., 52 deg.: for March, at 7, A. M., 53 deg.; at 2, P. M., 63 deg.; at 9, P. M., 54 deg.: for April, at 7, A. M., 61 deg.; at 2, P. M., 74 deg.; at 9, P. M., 66 deg. In the summer months it ranges from 80 to 90 deg., but the heat is by no means as oppressive as the same height would indicate in more northern latitudes, on account of the dryness, clearness, and consequent elasticity of the atmosphere. The trade wind sets in about 10, A. M., and blows steadily until daylight next morning. There are no marshes in the vicinity, and consequently no fresh water vapors, and the frame is therefore generally braced, and the spirits in a state of exhilaration that at first is astonishing. This is no doubt the true secret of those enthusiastic and glowing descriptions of this land of flowers, that characterize all the earlier accounts of this country; and while it is one of the greatest sources of enjoyment, is also in itself an efficient remedy. So remarkable, indeed, and so well understood are the effects of the trade wind, that it is familiarly styled, among the inhabitants, 'the Doctor.'

"The nature of the soil assists

the operation of these causes. Consisting of shells and sand, it absorbs the rain that falls very rapidly, and thus prevents the rise and accumulation of vapor, and avoids the unhealthy decomposition of vegetable matter, those prolific sources of fever and disease in our own climate; and even when occasionally the air may be somewhat damp, it is so impregnated with salt as to be perfectly harmless. One fact is worthy of particular remark, as being to consumptive patients of great importance: this is that there is *no liability to taking cold* in this climate; no ordinary exposure is unhealthy or dangerous. This fact, however curious, is unquestionable, and is accounted for on the plainest principles. There are no sudden changes from heat to cold, nor from dry to damp. During the day, the refreshing trade wind pours a steady current of air over the coast, and you retire to bed while this operation of nature is going on; instead of waking at night or in the morning, and feeling the chill of the night damp, the weather has uniformly grown warmer and milder from the gradual withdrawal of the effect of the wind, which ceases entirely about daylight. In other climates the night is almost invariably, and is always liable to be, colder and damper than the day. In St. Augustine the reverse is the case, and thus the delicate lungs of a patient are relieved from one of the greatest sources of irritation. This it is, in my opinion, that constitutes the secret of the climate; it creates the most bland and uniform temperature of the atmosphere, and there are no local causes to impede its complete operation."

There is one very important fact contained in the foregoing extract, which must modify very considerably the healthful tendency of the place. We refer to what is said of the *water*. The influence exerted on the system

by the water commonly used is too generally underrated. It does not stop, we must remember, with the quantities of this article taken in its pure state; it is not limited by the additional quantities taken for the dilution of spirituous liquors: it is active in the coffee and tea which form so large a part of the morning and evening repast; in the meats and the vegetables which have been boiled in it, we have another and daily recurring vehicle for conveying into the system the influence of the water of the place we reside in. If this therefore is impure, it constitutes a formidable objection to the city in question. This objection is the greater, since, as before hinted, a large proportion of cases, termed incipient phthisis, are probably caused by, consist in, or else are connected with, some morbid condition of the digestive apparatus.

We shall be happy to receive an account of such experiments as may be made, to test the effects of the atmosphere of St. Augustine, in chronic complaints of the lungs, or of any other organs.

MORTALITY OF BOSTON.

THE following are the Diseases, so far as they have been reported to the Health Office, which have occasioned the Deaths in this City the past year:—

Apoplexy	12
Accidental	12
Abscess	1
Abscess of the Lungs	1
Abscess of the Brain	2
Burns	4
Brain, disease of	2

Consumption	203	Mortification of the Bowels	1
Convulsions	28	Measles	72
Croup	35	Nervous Affection	1
Childbed, diseases of	17	Old Age	65
Canker	7	Palsy	11
Carcinoma Uteri	1	Pleurisy	4
Colic	3	Piles	1
Cholera Morbus	1	Poison	1
Chlorosis	1	Quinsy	3
Cancer	9	Rheumatism	3
Diseases unknown	160	Rupture	1
Dropsy	12	Rupture of Bloodvessel	1
Dropsy of the Brain	42	Sudden	7
Dropsy of the Chest	4	Stillborn	65
Dysentery	20	Suffocation	1
Drowned	19	Spleen, disease of	1
Debility	10	Salt Rheum	1
Diarrhœa	1	Scrofula	4
Disease of the Bowels	10	Suicide	5
Disease of the Chest	4	Scald	1
Epilepsy	2	Scurvy	1
Fever, Typhous	28	Spasm	2
" Lung	80	Spine, disease of	1
" Brain	14	Stomach, disease of	2
" Bilious	6	Throat Distemper	3
" Putrid	1	Teething	13
" unknown kind	2	Venereal	1
" Intermittent	1	Worms	3
" Scarlet	1		
" Inflammatory	1		1221
" Malignant	1		
" Nervous	1		
Fistula	1	We have given the diseases just as reported. The inaccuracy which will be observed in the nomenclature, renders it impossible to form a correct estimate of the proportional mortality of different complaints. It is worth remarking, however, that 203 have died of <i>consumption</i>, whilst the greatest number who have fallen victims to any other disease is 90, which marks the fatality of an acute disease of the same organs. ("Lung Fever, 80; Inflammation of Lungs, 10.") More than 300, or about a quarter part of the whole number of persons who have died the past year, have been carried off by some disease of the lungs.—Next in fatality we find the <i>Measles</i>, which have been	
Fracture	1		
Gravel	2		
Gout	1		
Hemorrhage of the Lungs	1		
Hemorrhage of the Bowels	1		
Hooping Cough	11		
Hip disease	3		
Heart, diseases of	9		
Inflammation of the Bladder	1		
Infantile Diseases	55		
Inflammation	11		
Inflammation of the Lungs	10		
Inflammation of the Bowels	21		
Inflammation of the Brain	7		
Insanity	3		
Intemperance	30		
Jaundice	1		
Lock-jaw	1		
Liver, diseases of	14		
Lethargy	1		
Mortification	8		

particularly rise the past year; then *old age*,—and it is not a little singular that the number of those whose light has thus burnt entirely out, is the same as that of those in whom the lamp of life was extinguished before their entrance into the world. Next in order of fatality are *Hydrocephalus, Croup, Intemperance, Typhous Fever and Convulsions, Inflammation of the Bowels, Dysentery*, and so on.

Let us now see what has been the whole number of deaths in this city the last seventeen years. The following may be considered authentic, as it is from the Records of the Health Office.

"In 1813, seven hundred and eighty-six; 1814, seven hundred and twenty-seven; 1815, eight hundred and fifty-one; 1816, nine hundred and four; 1817, nine hundred and seven; 1818, nine hundred and seventy-one; 1819, ten hundred and seventy; 1820, eleven hundred and three; 1821, fourteen hundred and twenty; 1822, twelve hundred and three; 1823, eleven hundred and fifty-four; 1824, twelve hundred and ninety-seven; 1825, fourteen hundred and fifty; 1826, twelve hundred and fifty-four; 1827, ten hundred and twenty-two; 1828, twelve hundred and thirty-three; 1829, twelve hundred and twenty-one."

If now, in these years, the same proportion of the fatality has been produced by diseases of the lungs, then more than *four thousand and six hundred persons*, in this city alone, have been carried off by diseases in these organs, since the year 1813.

This view of the great loss of human life, together with the amount of moral and physical suffering oc-

casioned among us by pulmonary disease, should give a new impulse to our efforts to avert so appalling a calamity. It appears to us, that, in the present state of medical knowledge on this subject, too much attention cannot be given to an early and judicious change of climate;—this *local application* seems to be an almost indispensable aid to our general remedies; a circumstance which gives an additional interest to the facts stated in the preceding article.

The great fatality of lung complaints is by no means confined to this city; it is common to most places in the north which border on the ocean. In Portsmouth, e. g., there were 121 deaths the past year, and more than one quarter of them were from disease of the lungs. Neither is it peculiar to populous cities. In York (Me.) there were 35 deaths in 1829. Of these, 11 were occasioned by old age, and consequently 24 were the result of disease. Of these 24, eleven, or *nearly one half*, died of consumption. Thus do we see the effect of this disease on human life, in a place otherwise healthy, and remarkable for the longevity of a large proportion of its inhabitants. Of the whole 35, only twelve died a natural death under 62 years of age.

CONSUMPTION OF ANIMALS,—EFFECTS OF TEMPERATURE.

A LATE foreign journal contains some account, by M. Flourens, of the consumption of certain animals, and the effect of temperature in that disease. We would gladly present

the account entire to our readers, but as our limits forbid this, we shall only offer the following extract, which contains a history of some of the experiments of this celebrated pathologist.

"In the month of May, 1826, being then in the country, a duckling was brought me from a newly-hatched brood. It seemed on the point of dying of suffocation: its beak was wide open; it had the greatest difficulty to breathe, and in an hour or two it died.

"On examining its organs, I found the lungs of a deep red color, and gorged with blood. The animal had died of a violent inflammation of the chest.

"I went to the place where the other ducklings of the same nest were, and found another which had just fallen into the same state of suffocation as the first I had seen; and while I was examining it, a third was suddenly seized before my eyes with an oppression of the chest, so violent, that at the very instant of the attack it became motionless, and soon showed all the symptoms the first had done. The two last-mentioned ducks also died after a few hours. On examination, they both presented the same inflammatory engorgement of the lungs which I had observed in the first: all three, in fact, had died of the same kind of acute pneumonia; and it was evident, moreover, on considering the cold degree of temperature, and the exposure to the north of the place in which they were found, that it was to the cold, and only to the cold, that these pulmonary inflammations were to be attributed.

"The sudden and violent effect of cold on these young birds, reminded me of some observations I had made some years previously on several animals which had been the subjects of my experiments. These animals which had been operated on, in the course of experiments during the

warm season, and completely cured, had most of them died of chronic pulmonary inflammation on the first cold weather which succeeded the period of operation.

"The comparison of these effects of cold on different animals, its action so decided and constant on the respiratory organs, the different degrees of chronic or acute inflammation which had occurred under my own eyes, made me sensible that I had in my power the means of direct investigation and experiment on one of the most cruel maladies by which humanity is liable to be afflicted,—namely, pulmonary consumption; and I determined to derive all possible advantage from them.

"I first applied myself to ascertain whether, in certain given cases, cold alone is sufficient to cause pulmonary consumption; and then to discover if, in such cases, to avoid the cold would be sufficient means of avoiding the malady. I resolved, in the third place, to inquire whether this malady, after it had commenced under the influence of a cold temperature, might not be cured by the simple and only effect of a mild temperature."

The following is detailed by M. Flourens as one among the many experiments made by him in the investigation he had thus proposed to himself:—

"Early in October, 1826, I procured a brood of twenty-three chickens, about a month old. As soon as the cold commenced, I placed six of these chickens in a place chosen for the purpose, in which I kept up a mild and uniform temperature. Not one of them was attacked with pulmonary consumption.

"Out of eleven chickens which were left exposed in the yard to the variations in the temperature of the atmosphere, all but two died of pulmonary consumption, after having passed through all its various degrees; and the two which survived were small and weak. But the most

important results were offered by the six chickens which remain to complete the number of twenty-three.

"I had left them at first with the eleven just mentioned in the common yard, until they showed evident signs of consumption more or less advanced. I then removed them to the place which I had kept at a constant and mild degree of temperature, and left them in company with others which were already kept there.

"Two of these six, which, had they been left exposed to the effects of the cold, would certainly have died either the very day I removed them from the yard, or the following at latest, after having at one time improved in a slight degree in strength, died, the one at the expiration of four days, the other at the end of nine; I found their lungs in a state of complete inflammation and suppuration.

"The other four regained by degrees their vivacity and strength, and at last completely recovered. In the month of April, 1827, when I set them all at liberty, they were quite as well as those which had been constantly kept in a place of warm temperature.

"It now only remained to ascertain the condition of the lungs of these four chickens, and what might be the states in which those organs had been during the time when the signs of their suffering under consumption were so evident.

"I found then, in the lungs of all, vestiges of former disease, more or less important, and now cured.

"I have preserved in spirit, and shown to the Academy, one of these cured pair of lungs, in which an entire lobe presented nothing but contracted vesicles, scars of extinct inflammation and suppuration, and evidence, not less authentic than consolatory, of the powerful influence of warmth, and of the complete cure of a malady to which so many of the human race fall victims.

"These experiments show clearly

what is the sort of influence which warm climates have on pulmonary consumption; that it is by effecting the cicatrization of the lungs, when injured by the cold of more rigid climates, that the mild temperature of the south produces the good effects so long observed by the faculty."

The memoir of M. Flourens concludes with insisting on the important advantages in throwing light on human pathology, which may be derived from observing the diseases of animals, and urges the propriety of forming *national establishments*, on the plan of that proposed by Baglivi in the seventeenth century, for the express purpose of studying the maladies of animals, in order to enlighten and assist the study of the disorders to which mankind is subject.

ALOES IN ULCERS.

THE resin of aloes is said to be more effectual than myrrh, or any other terebinthinate, in deterring foul ulcers, and promoting the healing process. It may be used in an ointment, made according to the following formula:—

Take of Resin of Aloes 3i.

Bee's-wax 3iv.

Ol. Oliv. 3v.

Mix and blend by gently boiling for a few minutes.

Acute Rheumatism.—Two cases of this disease are related by a physician of Montpellier, in which a speedy cure was effected, after other means had failed, by the tartrate of antimony. It was given in the dose of a quarter of a grain, and gradually increased until it produced nausea and diaphoresis.

Tic Douloureux and Periodical Headach.—Dr. Wetherill, an eminent physician of Liverpool, has treated two cases of confirmed tic douloureux by the sulphate of quinine, in doses of from five to ten grains three times a day. In one

case (a delicate female) the paroxysm recurred daily about one o'clock, and continued very severe for four hours. After taking the medicine three days, the paroxysm did not return, and she remained free from the malady. In the other case the effects were not so satisfactory. He has also successfully prescribed the sulphate of quinine in the same dose, in cases of periodical headach and nervous toothach.

London University.—The spirit which prevails among the Medical Professors of this new and celebrated University, bids fair to be the means, if not of augmenting, certainly of diffusing much important and useful scientific information. A monthly magazine, bearing the name of the University, has already reached its third number, and contains many valuable medical papers. With these we shall make our readers better acquainted in the course of a few weeks.

Indications of Insanity.—A Treatise on this subject is in preparation by Dr. Conolly, Professor of the Nature and Treatment of Disease in the University of London.

The Siamese Boys.—These twins have been so ill of a cough as not to be exhibited several days. They were attended by Mr. Bolton, and

are on the recovery. A representation of them playing at battledore and shuttlecock has been published by Mr. Ackermann.

NOTICES.

We feel it a duty to say, although a matter in which we have no possible pecuniary interest, that about a thousand dollars of the subscription to the "Medical Intelligencer," one of the roots from which this Journal sprang, still remain unpaid. As this amount is due to the family of the late Dr. J. G. Coffin, the last Editor and Proprietor of the Intelligencer, and as the circumstances of his estate are such as to render the payment of this sum very desirable, we must solicit, from those in arrears for that work, an immediate settlement of their accounts. The Proprietor of this Journal will receive and receipt for the same. The circumstances to which we have alluded will not be lightly regarded by the upright and humane debtor to Dr. C.

In our notice last week of Mr. Gould's Prize Dissertation, a typographical error occurred. The subject, *De Paruria*, was printed "*De Paruna*."

WEEKLY REPORT OF DEATHS IN BOSTON, ENDING JANUARY 14.

Date.	Sex.	Age.	Disease.	Date.	Sex.	Age.	Disease.
Jan. 8.	F.	24 yrs	consumption	11.	F.	3 yrs	typhous fever
	M.	3 d	unknown		F.	31	childbed
	M.	70 yrs	old age		M.	50	unknown
	M.	32	diarrhoea	12.	M.	40	do.
	F.	29	consumption		M.	3 mo	do.
	F.	18	do.		F.	3 yrs	hooping cough
	F.	3	do.		M.	38	unknown
9.	M.	23	liver complaint	14.	F.	42	cancer
	M.	19	consumption		F.	68	unknown
10.	F.	12 mo.	croup		F.	51	consumption
	F.	1 d	unknown		Males, 9.—Females, 12. Total, 21.		

ADVERTISEMENTS.

NEW MEDICAL BOOKS.

JUST published, and for sale, by **CARTER & HENDEE**,—Malaria; an Essay on the Production and Propagation of this Poison. By **JOHN McCULLOCH**, M.D. F.R.S., &c. &c.

An Essay on the Diseases of the Internal Ear. By **I. A. SAISSY**, M.D. Translated from the French, by **NATHAN R. SMITH**, M.D., Professor of Surgery in the University of Maryland; with a Supplement on Diseases of the External Ear, by the Translator.

Observations on the Utility and Administration of Purgative Medicines, in several Diseases. By **JAMES HAMILTON**, M.D., Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, &c. &c. From the Fifth Edinburgh Edition.

A Treatise on Pathological Anatomy. By **WILLIAM E. HORNER**, M.D., Adjunct Professor of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania, Surgeon at the Infirmary of the Philadelphia Almshouse, Member of the American Philosophical Society, &c.

Elements of Operative Surgery. Translated from the French of **A. TAVERNIER**, Doctor of Medicine of the Faculty of Paris, &c., with copious Notes and Additions. By **S. D. GROSS**, M.D.

A Treatise on the Nature, Cause and Treatment of Contagious Typhus. From the German of **J. VAL DE HILDEBRAND**, Imperial and Royal Counsellor, Professor of the Practice of Medicine in the University of Vienna, &c. &c. By **S. D. GROSS**, M.D.

An Essay on the Morbid Sensibility of the Stomach and Bowels. By **JAMES JOHNSON**, M.D.

Examinations in Anatomy, Physiology, Practice of Physic, Surgery, Chemistry, Materia Medica, and Pharmacy. For the Use of Students. By **ROBERT HOOPER**, M.D. Dec. 22.

MEDICAL SCHOOL OF MAINE.

THE MEDICAL LECTURES at **BOWDOIN COLLEGE** will commence on **TUESDAY**, February 23, 1830. Theory and Practice of Physic, by **JOHN DELAMATTER**, M.D.

Anatomy and Surgery, by **J. D. WELLS**, M.D.

Midwifery, by **JAMES MCKEEN**, M.D.

Chemistry and Materia Medica, by **P. CLEVELAND**, M.D.

The **ANATOMICAL CABINET** is extensive, and very valuable.

The **LIBRARY**, already one of the best Medical Libraries in the United States, continues to be every year enriched by New Works, both foreign and domestic.

Every person becoming a member of this Institution, is required to present satisfactory evidence that he possesses a good moral character.

The amount of fees for admission to all the Lectures is \$50. Graduating fee, including diploma, \$10. There is no matriculating fee. The Lectures continue three months.

Degrees are conferred at the close of the Lecture term in May, and at the following Commencement of the College in September. A systematic course of instruction, embracing Recitations in all the branches of Medical Science, Demonstrations, and Lectures, will be given by the Professors, during the interval between the annual courses of Lectures.

Boarding may be obtained in the Commons Hall at a very reasonable price.

Brunswick, Dec. 4, 1829.

Dec. 15.—4teop.

LAENNEC ON THE CHEST.

JUST published and for sale by **CARTER & HENDEE**, A Treatise on the Diseases of the Chest, and on Mediate Auscultation. By **R. T. H. LAENNEC**, M.D., Regius Professor of Medicine in the College of France, Clinical Professor to the Faculty of Medicine at Paris, Physician to her Royal Highness the Duchess of Berri, &c. &c. Translated from the latest French edition, with Notes and a sketch of the Author's Life, By **JOHN FORBES**, M.D., Member of the Royal College of Physicians, and Senior Physician to the Chichester Infirmary. With Plates. From the third Revised London edition, with additional notes.

Jan. 26.

AN ENGRAVING,

REPRESENTING the Perfect and Imperfect Cow Pox and the Chicken Pox, during their course, by **J. D. FISHER**, M.D. This day published and for sale by **CARTER & HENDEE**, cor. of Washington and School sts. Price 62 1-2 cts.

Jan 26.

Published weekly, by **JOHN COTTON**, at 184, Washington St. corner of Franklin St., to whom all communications must be addressed, *postpaid*.—Price three dollars per annum, if paid in advance, three dollars and a half if not paid within three months, and four dollars if not paid within the year. The postage for this is the same as for other newspapers.